during the calender years 1987 and 88 for playing a part in the seizure of contraband goods. However, the information regarding the amount of rewards given to police personnel of Maharashtra. particularly in Sindhudurg district during the last 3 years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

Import of Natural Rubber

3738. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural rubber imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a large quantity of natural rubber imported from Malaysia in 1990 is still lying unutilised with the State Trading Corporation;

(c) if so, the details therefor;

(d) the justification for importing it; and

(e) the resultant loss incurred by S.T.C on account of this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The State Trading Corporation of India Limited has imported the following quantities of natural rubber during the last three years:-

1988-89	51,363 Tonnes
1989-90	26,549 Tonnes
1990-91	31,699 Tonnes

(b) A quantity of 12,275 MT of natural rubber imported by STC in 1990 is still with them.

(c) Stock had been retained to ensure adequate inventory of natural rubber in India for meeting needs of the domestic industry.

(d) The imports were made on the basis of the projected demand-supply position and the need to maintain adequate inventory.

(e) The resultant loss, if any would be known only after the stocks are liquidated.

Cooperation in the Field of Defence

3739. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries cooperating India in the field of defence; and

(b) the details of the agreements made in this regard country -wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). India has defence cooperation arrangements with a number of friendly foreign countries. In view of the sensitive nature of the matter it will not be in the national security interest to disclose details about the countries involved and the nature and extent of cooperation agreements we have with them.

Export of Coffee

3740. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Coffee is becoming more popular abroad;

(b) if is, the steps taken to increase the export of coffee during the last three years;

(c) the quantity of coffee exported during 1991-92; and

(d) the target set for its export during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken to increase export of coffee include participation in International trade fairs, development of speciality coffee like 'Monsooned Coffee', increase in quantities offered in the export auctions, etc.

(c) 1,00,241 MT of coffee have been exported during April 1991 to February 1992.

(d) 1,20,000 MT is targetted for export during 1992-93.

Collection of toll tax on National Highways in Maharashtra

3741. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways passing through Maharashtra on which the work for widening and improving of roads are going on and the progress made so far;

(b) whether the Government have started collection, of toll tax for the bridges newly constructed on these roads; and

(c) if so, the amount of toll tax collected so far on National Highway Nos, 6 and 7 and the expenditure incurred on the employment of the personnel on these roads during 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Improvement words costing Rs. 167.8 crores are at various stages of progress on National Highways No. 3,4, 4 B, 6,7,8,9,17, 50. Expenditure on these works till September, 1991 is Rs. 71.73 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. Bridge free/is collected on all bridges on these roads which qualify for such collection.

(c)The amounts of Bridge fees collected from Bridges on National Highways No. 6 and 7 for the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are Rs. 4.43 lakhs and Rs. 58.89 lakhs respectively . No expediture has been incurred on the employment of Personnel for this purpose as the collection is being carried out though contractors.

Export of sea ponds

3742. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export target of sea foods during the current year and the achievements made;

(b) the countries to which exported;

(c) whether foreign participation is allowed in areas such as deep sea fishing acquaculture etc; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it is being allowed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a). Export of seafood during April, 1991 to February, 1992 is Rs. 1200 crores as against the target of Rs. 1500 crores fixed for the full year.

(b) The exports of marine products are mainly to Japan, EEC countries, USA, Singapore, Hongkong , UAE etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.